

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.22/2/2009/ERS/

Dated 10th July, 2009.

To

The Chief Electoral Officers of all
States and Union Territories.

Subject:-Electoral Rolls – free supply of copies of electoral roll – regarding.

Sir/Madam,

You are aware that two copies of electoral rolls are supplied free of cost to the recognized political parties whenever the rolls are published as draft or final under the extant provisions of rules 11 (c) and 22(c) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. As per the instructions of the Commission, one such copy is supplied in CD and another is a printed copy. The existing law permits changes in the finally published roll by way of inclusions, deletions, modifications. These changes are incorporated in the database and a supplement is printed only if it is required to conduct an election. The rule does not contemplate free supply of copies of the Supplement of Continuous updation to the political parties, as this supplement is not required to be published as is done at the time of draft and final publication of rolls. However, to keep the political parties entirely in the picture with the changes made during the process of continuous updation, the Commission's instructions are that copy of that Supplement should also be supplied free of cost to the political parities to whom copies of the draft and final roll was supplied free of cost. One complete copy of electoral roll is also supplied free of cost to the contesting candidates of recognized political parties during general elections under the provisions of Section 78A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 during general elections. The expenditure on printing of

electoral roll used for electoral purposes is shared between the Central and State Govt. on 50 : 50 basis.

2. A demand has since been made by the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Goa that copies of electoral rolls in CD and hard copy should be made available free of cost to the MLAs. The demand has been examined by the Commission in the light of the existing legal provisions, administrative arrangements and financial procedure regarding sharing of expenditure involved with the perspective of the country as a whole. It has been decided by the Commission that there is no objection to supply of printed copies of electoral roll and the CDs, free of cost, to the MLAs provided the State Government agrees to bear the expenses for printing of these additional copies of electoral rolls. It is further clarified that the additional requirement of copies of electoral roll to the MLAs can be taken up for printing separately and this should not be a cause for delay in publication of electoral roll on due dates appointed by the Commission.

3. You are requested to bring this instruction to the notice of the Secretary of the State Legislature. In case similar demand is made by the Hon'ble Members of State Legislature of any State, then the Secretary of the State Legislature concerned should inform the Chief Electoral Officer concerned in writing with an undertaking that the expenditure for printing of the additional copies of the electoral roll shall be borne by the State Govt.

4. This disposes the reference made by the CEO, Goa vide his letter No.7/1/2002/ELEC/2537 dated 19th May, 2009. He is requested to convey the views of the Commission in the matter to the Hon'ble Ad-hoc Committee of the Goa Legislative Assembly.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Ashish Chakraborty)
Under Secretary

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION